

What: Student Honors Luncheon  
When: May 30, 1996

Good morning. On behalf of the Institute it is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to the 1996 Student Honors Luncheon.

Today we recognize Tech's most outstanding student scholars and leaders. To those students who are being recognized today, I would like to say congratulations. At an institute where excellence is expected and you compete with some of the best students in the nation, you have proven your merit.

I would also like to congratulate the parents of today's honorees. As you well know—and your son or daughter has probably been reminded—you played no small role in your daughter or son's accomplishments. You can deservedly be proud of what they have done at Georgia Tech.

In addition, I would like to thank those of you from industry who have sponsored many of today's awards. Your support and recognition of our students helps reinforce the historic practical dimension of a Tech education.

You, who are being honored, have proven. Through hard work, intelligence, and determination, you have made your mark at Georgia Tech.

In fact, your success is more than just a matter of grades and competition with fellow students. You have also

proven yourself to have a special talent - you have succeeded within the confines defined by Ma Tech. If Georgia Tech was a Saturday morning cartoon, you would be the roadrunner—constantly able to out-think and outwit the Wylie E. (WILEY) Coyote. Now I am not saying that Georgia Tech tries to create problems for you to solve, but as a former student, I know that success at Georgia Tech has as much to do with learning how to make the system work for you as studying hard and taking tests well. This is an important life skill you will appreciate after you leave Ga Tech.

Many of you will soon graduate. Others are still working toward your degree. Wherever you stand in your career path, be assured that the excellence you've demonstrated here at Georgia Tech will stand you in good stead. Former chairman of AT & T Frederick Kappel was once asked about his hiring practices. His answer was that you could pinpoint an above-average employee by hiring an above-average student, saying: "a drive already demonstrated will be sustained."

I agree. In fact, with the foundation of excellence you have built here, you have a headstart on your career goals.

However, I do urge you to understand that doing well at a first-rate university does not guarantee success in life. You could rely on the advice of J. Paul Getty, once the richest man in the world - rise early, work hard and strike oil. (pause) But I think there is more to it than hard work and luck.

A French sociologist recently published a landmark study in which he addressed the issue of why people were happy in life, regardless of their station in life. He studied people from those who were successful in the top professions to those who were custodians. His conclusion, the common denominator was curiosity. Those who loved to learn, who took pride in their work, who asked why, who had a sense of wonder about life and aspects of it beyond their jobs, were successful. Those who had decided there was nothing more to learn, who had lost the child's ability of wonder were most likely to be unhappy.

Thus, instead of a rest, I would urge you not to abandon the learning process. And learn about more than just your profession - broaden yourself because if you do this, there is always more to learn.

In his book, *The Road Ahead*, Bill Gates explains it well, saying, "Great educators have always known that learning is not something you do only in classrooms." He certainly proved the wisdom of that adage a billion times over.

In closing, I would also urge you to be ready for a life of change. Your chosen career path might not yield what you expect, yet through a commitment to lifelong learning and excellence, you can excel in any endeavor. Consider the example of Tech alumnus Gil Amelio, current chairman and chief executive officer of Apple Computer. Back in his student days, while earning bachelor's master's, and doctoral degrees in physics, I doubt he ever

considered that he might one day lead a multinational computer corporation.

But today he does just that—and many are saying he will be the man to save the struggling corporation.

So when you find yourself facing new opportunities, remember his example—and remember as well the benefits of a commitment to lifelong learning and flexibility.

Thank you very much and once again, congratulations.